MINUTES OF THE WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 21, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – Room C250 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen, Senate Chair Rep. Steven R. Mascaro, House Chair

Sen. Allen M. Christensen

Sen. Fred J. Fife

Sen. Patricia W. Jones

Rep. Janice M. Fisher

Rep. Christopher N. Herrod

Rep. Karen W. Morgan

Rep. Gordon E. Snow

Members Absent:

Sen. Dan R. Eastman Rep. James A. Dunnigan

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst

Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel

Ms. Chelsea Barrett, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Mascaro called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. He noted that Rep. Dunnigan was excused from today's meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Herrod absent for the vote.

2. Open and Public Meetings Law Training

Mr. Hunsaker explained "Title 52, Chapter 4, Utah Code Open and Public Meetings," a document previously mailed to the Committee. He answered questions from committee members.

3. Disadvantaged Rural Communities

Chair Mascaro introduced Sen. Stowell and invited him to present the issue.

Sen. Stowell distributed 2008 General Session S.B. 185, "Economic Incentive Revisions" and Utah Code, Section 63M-1-2001, "Business Development for Disadvantaged Rural Communities Act." Sen. Stowell requested that the Committee study the feasibility of appropriating money to the Business Development for Disadvantaged Rural Communities Restricted Account. Sen. Stowell introduced Mr. Rob Adams, Director, Economic Development, Beaver County.

Mr. Adams explained that current efforts in Beaver County are focusing on developing a training and certification center for the creation of new jobs in the renewable energy industry.

Mr. Gayle Bunker, Mayor, Delta, noted the many struggles for economic development in the rural sectors of Utah. Mr. Bunker explained that Delta would greatly benefit from additional funding to help plan a facility for public use to stimulate economic growth.

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Mr. Les Prall, Rural Development, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), encouraged the Legislature to reconsider Sen. Stowell's legislative proposal.

Mr. Gayle McKechnie, Director, Rural Development Office, GOED, explained that rural communities must contain good infrastructure for sustainable development. He encouraged the Committee to look into long-term planning for rural communities.

4. Draft Legislation - State-owned Art Inventory

Mr. Wilson introduced 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Department of Community and Culture -- State-Owned Art Inventory."

Ms. Allyson Isom, Deputy Director, Department of Community and Culture, distributed "Utah Department of Community and Culture, Legislative Brief, SB 33 State-Owned Art Inventory." She explained that the draft legislation was intended to help preserve and account for the valued art work currently in Utah, and answered questions from committee members.

MOTION: Sen. Madsen moved to approve 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Department of Community and Culture -- State-Owned Art Inventory" as a Committee bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Snow absent for the vote.

5. Motion Picture Incentives

Chair Mascaro noted under Item 224, Master Study Resolution, that Sen. Hillyard and Mr. Jason Perry, Executive Director, GOED, requested that the Committee study motion picture incentives, including increasing the appropriation for the Motion Picture Incentive Fund.

Mr. Derek Miller, representing Mr. Jason Perry, GOED, encouraged the Committee to reconsider legislation for motion picture incentives, including increasing the appropriation for the Motion Picture Incentive Fund.

Ms. Leigh von der Esch, Managing Director, Utah Office of Tourism, GOED, further explained the importance of a competitive Motion Picture Incentive Fund for Utah.

Mr. Marshall Moore, Director, Utah Film Commission, distributed "State Eyes Bigger Movie Incentive" and "High School Musical 3' Gets It's Own Reality Event," and presented "Utah Film Commission." Mr. Moore explained the importance of production incentives when motion picture studios determine where a motion picture will be filmed. He noted the potential that Utah has for further advancements in movie productions.

Mr. Terry Spasic, The Movie Company, explained that additional motion picture incentives can create economic growth and jobs.

Mr. Bill Boarden, Producer, High School Musical 3, noted his experience with high quality movie production in Utah. He advised the Committee to consider the long-term benefits of investing in the Motion Picture Incentive Fund

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MOTION: Rep. Morgan moved to work with the Utah Film Commission to prepare draft legislation to address the many points discussed in the Motion Picture Incentives presentation and to bring back recommendations to the Committee for consideration. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Snow absent for the vote.

6. Tax Credits for the Manufacturing Industry

Chair Mascaro informed the Committee that the Legislative Management Committee decided to remove this item from the Committee's list of proposed study items for the upcoming interim.

The Committee agreed to work with staff to obtain more information from the Legislative Management Committee regarding the cancellation of this study item.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Christensen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Fife and Rep. Snow absent for the vote.

Chair Masacro adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.